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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE INFO SECSTATE WASHOC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 16087

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: DVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ASAD

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

REF: SECTO 16081

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

ON REFLECTION, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 5 OF REFTEL, MAKING THE POINT ON YOUR INITIATIVE: PRESIDENT ASAD MUST HAVE NOTICED THAT IN URGING RESTRAINT WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY INTERVENTION BY PARTIES IN THE REGION, WE HAVE PELPED FORESTALL THE CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD LEAD TO BROADER CONFLICT. HE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DANGERS OF ESCALATION ARE STILL GREAT UNDER COMDITIONS OF MOVEMENT SOUTH OF THE DAMASCUS. BEIRUT AXIS. THE RISKS INHERENT IN INTERVENTION WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN OUR VIEW, WHERE FORCES OF THE RADICAL ARAS STATES WERE INCLUDED IN ANY NUMBERS. KISSINGER

OC/T note: Passed Damascus

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY